

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the South Fork Shenandoah River in Rockingham and Page Counties. The South Fork Shenandoah River was listed on the 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standard for bacteria and violations of the State's general (benthic) standard for aquatic life. The benthic and bacteria impairments on the South Fork Shenandoah extend for 59 miles from the confluence of the North and South Rivers downstream to Hawksbill Creek.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report. DEQ has developed a bacteria TMDL to address the recreational use impairment and is seeking comment on that draft. The draft report will be available for review and download from the DEQ website at:

<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/TMDLDataSearch/DraftReports.aspx> beginning on or before May 18, 2009.

To address the aquatic life use impairment, DEQ conducted a stressor analysis, which identified sediment and phosphorus as the most probable stressors. Watershed modeling demonstrated that implementation of previously-developed upstream TMDLs for sediment and phosphorus would allow downstream water quality standards to be met without the development of a TMDL specific to the South Fork Shenandoah River mainstem. Based on these conclusions, a benthic TMDL was not developed for the South Fork Shenandoah River mainstem. In the 2010 305(b) and 303(d) Water Quality Assessment Integrated Report, DEQ intends to recategorize the South Fork Shenandoah River benthic impairment from EPA category 5A – an impaired water requiring a TMDL to EPA category 4A – an impaired water not requiring a TMDL, because a TMDL is already in place. DEQ is seeking

comment on this action and the stressor analysis report.

The final public meeting on the development of this TMDL will be held on **Monday, May 18, 2009, 7:00 p.m.** at the Town of Shenandoah Community Center, 305 Second Street, Shenandoah, VA.

The public comment period for this meeting and the draft TMDL will end on June 18, 2009. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Robert Brent, Department of Environmental Quality, 4411 Early Road, PO Box 3000, Harrisonburg, VA 22801, telephone (540) 574-7848, fax (540) 574-7878, or e-mail [rbrent@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:rbrent@deq.virginia.gov).